

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PUBLISHED COMMENTS OF LEADING POLITICOS ON JUNE 28
ELECTION

THERE FOLLOWS A SELECTION OF STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS
FOLLOWING JUNE 28 ELECTION BY SOME OF ULSTER'S LEADING
POLITICIANS:

1. FAULKNER. ON HIS OWN HIGH POLL: THIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
BY PEOPLE OF SOUTH DOWN SHOWS SUPPORT FOR OUR POLICIES --
POLICIES TO RECONSTRUCT NORTHERN IRELAND. ON VOTE IN GENERAL:
VOTERS HAVE REJECTED VIOLENCE EITHER FROM IRA OR FROM PARA-
MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS ON OTHER SIDE. THIS IS VERY GOOD. ON
FUTURE: THERE WILL BE THREE GROUPINGS IN THE NEW ASSEMBLY -
THE UNIONISTS, THE SDLP AND A VARIETY OF COALITIONS. HE SAID
THAT THE ASSEMBLY MUST BE MADE TO WORK: THAT IS WHAT WE SHALL
TRY TO DO, AND I AM VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT WE SHALL SUCCEED.
HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IF LOYALIST COALITION MEMBERS CARRIED
OUT THEIR THREAT TO MAKE ASSEMBLY UNWORKABLE, THEN THEY WILL
GET THE MESSAGE STRAIGHT FROM THE PEOPLE TO STOP THEIR
ACTIVITIES. HE DID NOT SEE THAT A VOTE FOR THEM WAS A VOTE
TO WRECK ASSEMBLY: IT WAS MORE A VOTE BY PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT
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HAPPY ABOUT PROVINCE' S CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE AND WERE AFRAID OF BEING SOLD DOWN THE RIVER. HE RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF DEAL WITH LOYALIST COALITION, SINCE HE BELIEVES ITS POLICIES AND THOSE OF UNIONIST PARTY ARE POLES APART. HE CANNOT FORESEE COALITIONS BECOMING INVOLVED WITH OFFICIAL UNIONISTS.

2. PAISLEY. ON OWN VICTORY: MY FIRST PREFERENCES ECHO WHAT I SAID TO MR. HEATH AND MR. WILSON ON THE FLOOR OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS WHEN I TOLD THEM THAT THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD REJECT WHITE PAPER AND CONSTITUTION BILL. LOUD AND CLEAR FROM NORTH ANTRIM HAS COME VOICE OF FREE- BORN ULSTERMEN SAYING TO MR. HEATH AND MR. WILSON - YOU WILL NOT PUSH US INTO A UNITED IRELAND. ON FUTURE: THIRTYFOUR PER CENT OF ELECTORATE HAS SAID NO TO THE WHITE PAPER. BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO LISTEN TO THAT VOICE. HOW COULD THE ASSEMBLY BRING PEACE TO THE PROVINCE WHEN IT HAD NO POWERS IN THE SECURITY FIELD?

3. CRAIG. I SHALL USE MY POSITION IN THE ASSEMBLY TO HAVE THIS UNDEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION REJECTED AND TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE A NEW STRONG CONSTITUTION WITH ADEQUATE MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISM WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED. I SHALL FIGHT FOR THE RESTORATION OF AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT ... WE LOYALISTS ARE NOW IN AN ALMOST IMPREGNABLE POSITION TO ACHIEVE OUR STATED AIM -- TO MAKE THE WHITE PAPER UNWORKABLE ... THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR ASSISTING MR. FAULKNER TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROPOSALS ... WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE CONSTITUTION THAT IS NOW OFFERED TO US. WE SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM. WE DEMAND AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT ANSWERABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. VUPP WOULD NOT FORM AN OPPOSITION IN OFFERED FORM OF GOVERNMENT NOR WOULD ITS MEMBERS ACCEPT EXECUTIVE POSTS. IT IS NOT A FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT ANY FREE MAN CAN ACCEPT. NOT FROM CRAIG, BUT FROM OTHER VANGUARD SOURCES, CAME HINTS THAT EFFORTS WILL NOW BE MADE TO RESUME WITH SDLP TALKS THAT HAD STARTED AND THEN BEEN DROPPED AT TIME OF WHITE PAPER' S PUBLICATION.

4. BRADFORD. ON ASSEMBLY: IT COULD BE REGARDED AS A CONFERENCE TABLE, BUT ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE SHAPED BY WHITE PAPER. THERE IS REMARKABLE AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES OF WP -- POWER- SHARING, INTERPARTY ADMINISTRATION, NO CHANGE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF N. I. UNLESS DEMOCRATICALLY AGREED. ONE YEAR GIVEN ASSEMBLY WILL BE ENOUGH. PROBLEM IS TO FORM AN ADMINISTRATION. IT WILL BE FORMED WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS OR NOT AT ALL: THE LONGER IT TAKES, THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WILL BE. ASSEMBLY IN END WILL BE WORKABLE, BECAUSE MEMBERS ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR BURDEN. PEOPLE ARE RELYING ON THEM. EVEN THOSE WHO BEFORE ELECTION WERE MOST BELLICOSE REALIZE THAT

BURDEN OF WAR OR PEACE IS LAID FAIR AND SQUARE ON THEIR SHOULDERS.
ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND: COOPERATION AND RECONCILIATION IN ALL
IRELAND ARE ESSENTIAL AND INEVITABLE, BUT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS
ON IT NOW WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

5. HUME. ON ELECTION: POLL BRINGS HOPE TO PEOPLE OF NORTHERN
IRELAND. PROVISIONAL IRA HAD URGED PEOPLE TO SPOIL THEIR PAPERS,
NUMBER OF SPOILED PAPERS WAS ONLY TWO PERCENT. THIS SHOWS THAT
STRENGTH OF IRA IS NOW VERY SMALL. THE IRA HAVE NOW HEARD THE
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, AND IT IS TIME THEY LISTENED.
ON FUTURE: ASSEMBLY MUST BE REGARDED AS CONFERENCE TABLE, AND
SDLP WILL GO TO TABLE SEEKING A FAIR ADMINISTRATION FOR THE
NORTH AND THEN THE SOLUTION TO THE IRISH QUESTION. WE SPARED
NO ENERGY IN DISMANTLING AN UNJUST SYSTEM AND NEITHER WILL
WE SPARE OUR ENERGIES IN BUILDING UP A NEW, JUST SYSTEM.
ON FUTURE: PEOPLE WISHES TO LEAVE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES ASIDE
BUT THERE WERE CONTENTIOUS AREAS AND IF THEY COULD BE RESOLVED
PEACE WOULD BE PROTECTED. ONE OF THE BIGGEST OF THESE WAS
POLICING AND LAW AND ORDER. THE SDLP SUGGESTED JOINT CONTROL
OF THE POLICE UNDER A COUNCIL OF IRELAND. LOYALISTS HAD
ADMITTED, BY THEIR CRIES OF EXTRADITION, THAT LAW AND ORDER
WAS AN ALL- IRELAND MATTER.

6. FITT. ONE HOPEFUL SIGN FROM THE ELECTION WAS THAT
LOYALIST EXTREMISTS HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE ELECTORATE.
ON THE MINORITY SIDE THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT THE
SDLP CAN SPEAK WITH GREAT AUTHORITY ON THEIR BEHALF.

7. PADDY DEVLIN REGRETTED LARGE NUMBER OF SPOILED PAPERS IN
HIS WEST BELFAST CONSTITUENCY -- 2834. THESE VOTES SHOULD
HAVE BEEN USED IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY, AS THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN
GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP IN SWITCHING OFF THE VIOLENCE
AND CREATING A NEW SOCIETY.

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8. BOB COOPER. EIGHT ALLIANCE MEMBERS WILL FORM BRIDGEHEAD
FOR THE FUTURE. WE WILL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO MAKE ASSEMBLY
WORK.
PENBERTHY

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